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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**BERKELEY REP SCHOOL OF THEATRE'S FALL SESSION OFFERS 40 CLASSES FOR THE
CURIOUS AND CREATIVE****Classes available for beginners and professionals of all ages**

September 5, 2013 – As Berkeley Repertory Theatre prepares to open its 46th season with the Tony Award-winning play [Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike](#), its School of Theatre announces a new slate of classes for its popular fall session. Starting September 23, the school will offer 40 classes for **youth, teens, and adults** to explore theatre and gain valuable training. Classes include acting, improvisation, stage combat, playwriting, auditioning, clowning, and more. Prospective students can learn about the wide variety of programming offered at the School of Theatre at the free **Sunday Sampler on September 15 from 1:00-3:00pm** at the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, 2071 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA.

This year the [School of Theatre](#) is offering four new classes. In **Play Creation: *Tristan & Yseult and Ancient Legends***, inspired by Kneehigh Theatre's upcoming production of *Tristan & Yseult* at Berkeley Rep, participants explore how to collaborate with other artists and create a unique performance piece. **Intermediate/Advanced Scene Study: Sam Shepard** focuses on one of our great American playwrights. **Repertory Performance Intensive: *Gown for His Mistress***, an immersive five-week program, is designed to help students identify and develop the necessary skills for success in a repertory acting company. Finally, **Egyptian Adventures** introduces children to the fascinating world of Egyptian history through fun and games.

"The School of Theatre's fall session offers students of all ages an opportunity to work with teachers across myriad theatrical disciplines in a positive, challenging, and creative environment," says **Rachel Fink**, director of the School of Theatre. "For working professionals we offer a dynamic range of classes designed specifically to sharpen and enhance their skills."

The 10-week fall session, which begins on September 23, offers the following classes:

- **Classes for youth (grades K-5)** include Egyptian Exploration, which is designed to introduce the youngest child to the fascinating world of Egypt; and Circus Skills for the Stage, which provides students an opportunity to explore the amazing skills of acrobatics, clowning, and juggling. Performance Workshop: Potter Plays — The Series Continues offers students entry into Harry Potter's magical world where they will create an original tale of mayhem, might, and magic. In Performance Workshop: The Hobbit, students will be swept into the mythical world of Bilbo Baggins and take a quest to reclaim the lost Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor from the fearsome jewel-studded dragon Smaug.
- **Classes for middle school and high school students (grades 6 through 12)** include two music-centered courses. In Musical Theatre Scene Study: *My Fair Lady*, students focus on a 16-bar selection and take a wild ride through the streets of old London with Eliza Doolittle and a host of colorful characters. In Musical Theatre Performance Ensemble: *Les Misérables*, an intensive two-semester process, students explore songs and scenes from Victor Hugo's epic musical. Other course offerings include On-Camera Acting, Acting Violence: Single Rapier, one-on-one audition coaching, and a performance-based class where students immerse themselves into the beautiful and haunting world of William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

(MORE)

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- **Classes for adults** include training in different styles and levels of acting, from beginning to advanced, from on-camera to voice-overs, from comedy to Sam Shepard. Students can choose from a wide range of improv classes created for beginners, professional improvisers, mental-health practitioners, and business professionals. Students interested in developing their own work can explore ideas in Playwriting, Solo Performance, Taking It to the Street, Director's Hot House, and Performance Art. Or they can focus on voice and movement skills in Alexander Technique and Linklater Voice, Voice for Business Professionals, British Dialects, Contact Improv, and Acting Violence.

The Berkeley Rep School of Theatre is committed to working with local schools and community members to reinforce arts education as a community value and an integral part of the cultural fabric. By providing access and opportunities for participation in the arts, Berkeley Rep uses theatre as a means to challenge, thrill, and galvanize what is best in the human spirit. Major support for the School of Theatre's education programs is provided by Target. **For more information** about classes at Berkeley Rep – or affordable outreach programs for local schools – call (510) 647-2972, e-mail school@berkeleyrep.org, or visit berkeleyrep.org/classes.

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ATTENTION, CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHO: Theatre lovers of all ages – from beginners to professionals

WHAT: FREE Sunday Sampler: Sunday, September 15, 2013, 1:00 - 3:00 PM; Fall Session featuring 40 different classes for children and adults: **Starting September 23, 2013**

WHERE: Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, 2071 Addison Street @ Shattuck, Berkeley, CA

HOW MUCH: Varies by class; scholarships available for youth and teens. (510) 647-2972
<http://www.berkeleyrep.org>

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